

**ABSTRACT**

A process of preparing an elastic thermally bonded nonwoven web, whereby the process is characterized by the following steps:

- (i) providing a thermally bonded nonwoven precursor web containing thermoplastic fibers,
- (ii) subjecting the precursor web of step (i) to a drawing treatment in a machine direction at a drawing rate of from 45 to 70 %, and  
a strain rate within a range of from 1000 to 2400 %/min  
at a temperature between the softening point and the melting point of the fibers for preparing the elastic thermally bonded nonwoven web.